Frank A. Tillman Obituary

Frank A. Tillman, 79, Lake Ozark, passed away Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, at Citizens Memorial Hospital, Bolivar.

Frank was born July 22, 1937, in Linn. He was the son of Clarence and Josephine, (Balkenbusch). Tillmann. The unfortunate early passing of his father started him working at the age of 9. This work ethic carried throughout his life. Frank was an athlete through high school and went to college at Lincoln University on a basketball scholarship. He soon realized that academia was his passion. On Jan. 31, 1959, in Washington, Frank was united in marriage to Barbara Langendoerfer, and they shared 58 years together at the time of his death. Working full time to support his family and going to school full time, he earned a bachelor's and master's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Missouri. He worked at Standard Oil of Ohio and attended Case Institute working on his Ph.D. in operations research. He was awarded a Ford Foundation grant to finish his Ph.D. in industrial engineering at the University of Iowa. After graduating, he moved his family to Manhattan, Kan., and took a position as a professor at Kansas State University. A year later, at 29, he became head of the Department of Industrial Engineering. Frank loved academics.

He mentored many students throughout his career who have become very successful and kept in touch with him over time. As professor and department head, he was a founder of the KSU Chapter of Tau Beta Pi, and was involved in Alpha Pi Mu, ABET accreditation, was an Institute of Industrial Engineering fellow, wrote 54 papers and two books during his time on the faculty, and was awarded emeritus status upon his departure from the university. Frank began his real estate development career during this time as well, developing a number of housing communities in Manhattan, Kan. In 1972, he received a Presidential appointment to U.S. President Nixon's Price Commission and moved his family to Washington, D.C., for a short time. He then began consulting businesses which drew him from academia to the business world as his primary career. He operated two successful consulting companies with many contracts with government agencies and Fortune 500 companies. He spent the next 20 years managing these firms with offices in Manhattan, Kan., and Washington, D.C. Frank also continued his real estate activities with commercial and residential real estate. In Frank's later years, he published four books and four e-books documenting his approach to problem solving and applying theory to practical solutions.

Frank was very active in the community. He served two terms on the USD 383 School Board, served on multiple advisory councils and coached numerous basketball, softball and baseball teams. His Youth Activities Foundation supported numerous sports teams in Manhattan, Kan., and Kansas City. Frank and Barbara additionally support a scholarship fund for industrial engineering students. One of his most treasured activities was coffee in the morning with KSU faculty and community members.

Of all of his abilities and passions, his family was always first and foremost to him. He was a man who cared for his family deeply and provided for them unceasingly. He was very involved in their lives and was happy to take them on family vacations to Disney World, ski trips, the Lake of the Ozarks and helping his kids and grandkids through college. Frank touched many lives in his time here on earth, including students, athletes, business community members, faculty and friends. He always saw potential in people who were discouraged in engineering. He endlessly recruited for the Industrial Engineering Department. He always had an opinion and was happy to discuss it with you. He will be deeply missed by many.

Aside from his wife, Barbara, Frank is survived by his daughters, Michelle Hoyt, Lake Ozark, Deandra Cassone, Spring Hill, Kan., Lisa Lacey and husband Ron, Sunrise Beach, and son, Alan Tillman, Lenexa, Kan.; five grandchildren, Kasey Blain and husband James, Overland Park, Kan., Kristina Cassone, Victor Cassone and wife Chelsey, Benjamin Lacey and Nicolas Lacey; sisters, Donna Tillman, Rio Rancho, N.M., Catherine Jensen, Pacific, Elisabeth Reinsch, St. Louis, and Virginia Ames and husband Ron, Holts Summit; along with two great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Josephine Tillman, and two brothers, David and Joseph.

Visitation was held at Hedges-Scott Funeral Home, Osage Beach, Thursday, March 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with a prayer service at 7:30 pm.

A funeral Mass was held Friday, March 3, at 11 a.m., at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Lake Ozark, with a luncheon at Tucker-Shuckers, Osage Beach.

Graveside services and interment were at 4:30 p.m. at St. George Cemetery, Linn.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the KSU Foundation for the Tillman Scholarship T92190.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared online at www.hedgesscottfuneralhomes.com.

Arrangements have been placed under the care of Hedges-Scott Funeral Home, Osage Beach.

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https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/emissourian/name/frank-tillman-obituary?id=22231197